(d) what are the reasons for omitting the drugs from the list;

(e) whether his Ministry ascertained the reasons for the omission and if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that an expert committee has been set up to identify drugs for category I;

(g) whether it is also a fact that the list of all National Health Programmes have not provided to the committee; and

(h) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations were made to the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in June/July(1987. Vaccines and Sera were not omitted from this list.

(e) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated that Vaccines and Sera were omitted on the consideration that availability of the drug is more important than price.

(f) to (h) Yes, Sir. A list of eleven identified National Health Programmes was provided to the Expert Committee.

Diabetic Control Programme

536. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not communicated the name of diabetic control programme to the expert committee for identification of drugs for category-I list;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that diabetes is one of the causes which lead to blindness;

(d) whether it is also a fact that control of blindness is one of the National Health Programme; and

(e) if so, what are the basis on which Government have not advised to identify drugs for control of diabeties?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (e) A list of eleven National Health Programmes identified for the purpose of categorisation of drugs under Category-I of the Drugs Prices Control Order, 1987; was communicated to the Expert Committee. Control of Diabetes does not figure in this identified list of National Health Programme. In very few cases diabetes, manifesting as diabetic retinopathy can lead to blindness. It is a fact that control of Blindness is one of the National Health Programmes whereas Diabetes has not been identified as such.

Procurement of drugs for National Health Programme

537. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4206 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that states are procuring and distributing drugs needed for National Health Programme out of the funds provided by centre and states;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large purchases of Betamathasone, Dexamethasone; Chloramphenicol, Framycetin; Gentamycin and Polymixin eye preparations are made for National Health Programme by different states;

(c) if so, what is the quantity of each procured by each state during last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what are the basis on which these drugs have been excluded from the list of Category-I?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Drugs for national health programmes are procured and distributed by the Central Government as well as the State Government.

(b) to (c) No such information is available with the Ministry.

(d) Commonly used, effective drugs used for control of blindness and Trachoma were recommended for Price Control under Category-I of the Drug Price Control Order, 1987. A Committee had been set up to review the listing of drugs under Catgory-I. The Committee has submitted its report on 8-11-88.

Use of Rifampicin for Control of TB and Leprosy

538. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rifampicin is used for control of TB and leprosy:

(b) whether it is a fact that TB and Leprosy are covered under National Heatlh Programmes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per policy announced in December, 1986, drugs needed for National Health Programmes would form category-I of price control; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry recommended for shifting Rifampicin for category-I to category-II

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee of Experts was constituted to review the list of drugs which figure under category-I of drug price control order, 1987 The proposal for re-categorisation of Rifampicin was considered by that Committee. The Committee has submitted its report on 8-11-1988.

Drugs banned by Maharashtra Government

539. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated 3rd November, 1988 under the heading 'Maharashtra bans seven drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of the drugs found to be sub-standard along with the names of manufacturers;

(c) whether any penal action has been taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) A news item had appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated 3rd November, 1988 under the heading of Maharashtra bans seven drugs. Consequent to the Lentin Commission report, the Maharashtra Government is publishing the names of drugs which are reported not of standard quality and directs the manufacturers of these substandard drugs to stop its sale under the Drugs & Cosmetic Act.

(b) to (d) A statement is annexed.

Statement

Name of Drug	Batch No.	Name of Manufacturer	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1. Dexamethazone Tablet IP	0109	M/s. Bekay Pharmaceuticals Taluja Dist: Raigarh Maharashtra.	Show-cause notice for suspension/cancellation of licence issued